

In conclusion, I wish to say in extenuation of the many shortcomings and omissions in my endeavor to cast some light in obscure places, that in this work there are no guides. None have blazed a way which one may follow. And if I have erred, it is the school where the explorer learns, that later he or another may avoid the same pitfall.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

### MEETING OF APRIL 7.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, Tuesday evening, April 7, at 8 o'clock. The President and Secretary being absent the Vice-President, Mr. Leng, presided and Mr. Charles Myers was elected Secretary pro tem.

The following members were present: Messrs. Billings, Brues, Davis, Joutel, Leng, Myers, O'Connor, Palm, Southwick, Bueno, Watson, Weeks and two visitors, Miss Billings and Mr. Raymond Osborn. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was necessarily omitted.

Mr. Davis of the Field Committee reported that cards had been mailed to members calling for an outing to Fort Lee, Sunday, April 19.

Mr. O'Connor proposed Mr. Morgan Hebard, of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, as an active member of the Society.

A communication from the New Era Printing Company regarding the entry of the Journal as second class mail matter was referred to the Publication Committee. Also a communication was read from Mr. Schaeffer, referring to the fact that he would be out of the city for some time and Mr. Joutel was elected to fill the position of Librarian during Mr. Schaeffer's absence.

Mr. Davis then presented a few remarks on the subject of "A New Cricket (*Apithes agitator* Uhler) from the vicinity of New York."

He stated that this cricket was described in 1864 by Uhler who wrote of it as follows: "It inhabits grape vines and dense shrubbery near Baltimore and is found fully developed about the middle of September."

In the "Insects of New Jersey" it is recorded from Anglesea and Bay Side, both in Cape May County. In these localities it was found in September. In Scudder's Catalogue of the Orthoptera of the United States its habitat is given as "Southern U. S. east of the Great Plains." On the 21st of last September a single female of this species was found at Ward's Point, Tottenville, Staten Island, which is the most northern locality so far reported.

Mr. Joutel gave some notes on the "Food Habits of *Goes pulverulenta*." He stated that his experience in breeding this species showed the small value of negative evidence in that although he had always looked for the insect in beech, its recorded food plant, he had only found it in iron-wood (blue beech) and so thought there might have been an error in the determination of the food plant; since then, however, he has been informed by Mr. Laurent, of Philadelphia, that he had bred it from

beechnut and showed him some examples of the work and also the insects. Also Mr. Blanchard had informed him that he had found it in Elm at Tyngsboro, Mass. Mr. Joutel stated also that he had found it last season in the scrub-oaks at Lakehurst, New Jersey, in stems from one inch to one and a half inches in diameter and that the work of the larvæ was quite distinct in the several food plants. In the beech it generally started at the crotch of the branches, in iron-wood in the trunk of trees ranging from three inches to six or seven inches in diameter, and in the dwarf-oak as stated above.

The Vice-President asked Mr. Raymond Osborn of Columbia University to address a few words to the members.

In response Mr. Osborn gave quite an interesting account of his collection of Serpent Flies, particularly about the distribution of forms found on Vancouver Island and stated also that some were found on glaciers in British Columbia. He had found a number of new species. He also spoke of the dragonflies of British Columbia, of which he has a large collection. In that region he found them particularly abundant, sometimes sitting on a telegraph wire all in a row like so many sparrows.

Mr. Bueno made some remarks on the hibernating position of *Vespa maculata* found at Fort Lee, N. J., which he exhibited to the members.

Mr. Leng showed specimens of the genera *Adalia* and *Coccinella* of the family Coccinellidae and spoke of the variations in the markings in connection with the geographical distribution of the species. Some of the species are remarkably constant in the maculation while other species are equally inconstant.

Mr. Leng also called attention to the recently published "Briefe eines reisenden Entomologen," by Dr. Walther Horn (Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, 1902, Heft 2), containing descriptions of American Cicindelidae and complimentary allusions to the New York Entomological Society. A review of the "Briefe" will be published in JOURNAL.

On account of Mr. Barber's absence his paper on a rare beetle from Mt. Katahdin was postponed.

Society adjourned.

#### MEETING OF APRIL 21.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, Tuesday evening, April 21, at 8 o'clock.

President C. F. Groth presided with the following members in attendance: Messrs. Barber, Brues, Davis, Holmes, Joutel, Leng, Love, Myers, Bueno, Watson and Zabriskie.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

A communication from Mr. Beutenmüller was read in reference to the entry of the JOURNAL as second class mail matter.

The secretary was instructed to call the attention of the publication committee to the fact that the number of JOURNAL published should be limited to 325, according to a former action of the Society; also that occasional reports of the actions of the publication committee should be transmitted to the Society.

Moved by Mr. Bueno and seconded that the several letters received by Mr. Joutel from the New Era Printing Company in reference to the entry of the JOURNAL to be transcribed and sent to the publication committee. Carried.

Mr. Davis, of the field committee, announced that the next field meeting would be held Sunday, May 3, near Patterson, N. J., with Mr. Herman Erb as guide.

Also the third outing of the season would take place at Mosholu, Sunday, May 17.

Mr. Morgan Hebard, of Philadelphia, Pa., was elected an active member of the Society.

Mr. Joutel stated that he had been requested by the Brooklyn Entomological Society to determine whether or not the New York Entomological Society would be willing to print its proceedings in our JOURNAL.

On motion of Mr. Leng the society voted to allow two pages of each issue of the Journal for printing the proceedings of the Brooklyn society. Mr. C. T. Brues then gave a talk on "Ant and Termite-guests," illustrated by lantern slides. The examples mentioned were drawn, some from previous accounts of other authors, and others from the speaker's personal experience in collecting these insects in Texas. He said that at the present time there had been described over 2,000 species of Arthropods which live occasionally or regularly in ant and termite nests.

Of these Coleoptera and especially Staphylinidæ are the most numerous, although insects of all orders are represented. In all of them there is a tendency to produce strange and remarkable forms and to develop structures suited to their rather precarious existence. This could be well seen in the Dipterous family Phoridae, which contains some of the most peculiar of all myrmecophiles. He spoke of the habits of a large number of the insects thrown upon the screen, roughly classifying them into welcome, indifferent and dangerous guests, although such a classification is useful only as a convenience. In regard to termitophiles he spoke of the physogastric or swollen condition of the abdomen which is characteristic of all true termite-guests and attributed it to the way in which they were stuffed with food by the white ants. In conclusion the speaker showed a picture of *Termitoxenia* Wasm., which he regarded as one of the most remarkably specialized insects ever described.

Mr. Leng inquired if *Cremastochilus* was milked by the ants. Mr. Brues replied that it was.

Mr. Joutel asked if the habits of the Staphylinidæ which lived with the queen termite had been worked out. Mr. Brues stated that he thought their habits were not known.

Mr. Leng also inquired if it was thought that these myrmecophilous beetles acted as scavengers. Mr. Brues replied that generally the ants were very particular to keep their nests clean themselves although some of the staphylinids were very fond of any grease which they could find on the walls of the nests.

Mr. Barber then spoke concerning the rare beetle *Miscodera arctica* Payk., which he had collected last summer near the base of Mt. Katahdin in Maine at an elevation of 3,000 feet. One specimen was taken under a stone. Mr. C. Schaeffer had determined the specimen for him. Mr. Samuel Henshaw wrote him in reference to this species that he had record of its capture in northern Michigan, Alaska and Newfoundland. He also mentioned that he had collected 58 specimens of a probably new species of Coccinellid at Lakehurst, N. J., on April 9, pronounced by Mr. Leng to be *Brachyacantha*, n. sp., or a European species.

Society adjourned.

## MEETING OF MAY 5.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, Tuesday evening, May 5, at 8 o'clock. President C. F. Groth occupied the chair with the following members present: Messrs. Barber, Billings, Brues, Call, Davis, Franck, Joutel, Love, Leng, Myers, Snyder, Southwick, Bueno, Watson, Weeks and Zabriskie. Ten visitors also present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Joutel reported that he had sent out the last issue of the JOURNAL to subscribers.\* Dr. Call proposed Mr. George P. Engelhardt, 185 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, as an active member.

The society then had the pleasure of listening to an illustrated lecture by Dr. E. P. Felt, on the subject of "Wood-Borers (Scolytids) and Their Ways." Dr. Felt spoke first about the relative size and economical importance of the Scolytidae compared with other important families of Coleoptera. He then threw upon the screen illustrations of the work of various species of Scolytids, commenting upon the peculiar difference in each case. He also showed a number of pictures to illustrate how rapidly these insects can destroy apparently healthy trees. He also exhibited a case showing specimens and workings of most of the important species of Scolytids.

On motion of Dr. Love the society accorded to Dr. Felt a hearty vote of thanks for the lecture.

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\* This must be an error, the March number of the Journal was sent out by The New Era Printing Company at Lancaster, Pa.